Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) An asynchronous tracking system on a computer network including a plurality of client computers and a server, <u>the</u> <u>asynchronous tracking system</u> ~~computer network~~ for recouping costs for performance of a job at a first time, comprising:

a message queue module on the server, wherein said message queue is formatted to comprise a plurality of records, and wherein each of the records comprise data pertaining to a plurality of jobs submitted from the plurality of client computers;

an unbilled alert module resident on at least one of the plurality of client computers for <u>automatically</u> generating a <u>message of unbilled cost data</u> ~~display~~ on the corresponding client computer ~~and~~ when cost recoupment data is <u>required</u> ~~requested~~ by the server from the corresponding client computer at a later second time temporally independent from <u>or not synchronous</u> the first time when the job was performed; and

a workstation monitor module resident on the one of the plurality of client computers on which the unbilled alert module is resident and in communication across the network with said message queue module and with said unbilled alert module, wherein said workstation monitor module comprises means for transmitting a message to said unbilled alert module if said message queue

module contains a record pertaining to a job submitted from the corresponding

client computer.

2. (currently amended) The asynchronous tracking system of claim 1,

wherein said unbilled alert module generates the message of unbilled cost data

as ~~comprises one of~~ an icon or ~~and~~ a textual message that appears on a

computer screen associated with the client computer at the later second time.

3. (previously presented) The asynchronous tracking system of claim 1,

further comprising a job monitor in communication with the client computer,

wherein said job monitor comprises means for monitoring the client computer for

the submission of a job from the client computer and to create a record pertaining

to the job submitted from the client computer.

4. (previously presented) The asynchronous tracking system of claim 3,

further comprising a billing dialogue module, wherein said billing dialogue module

comprises means for receiving qualification data from the client computer.

5. (previously presented) The asynchronous tracking system of claim 4,

wherein said billing dialogue module comprises a graphical user interface.

6. (currently amended) The asynchronous tracking system of claim 4, further comprising a manager's module, wherein said manager's module comprises means for setting a maximum unbilled job number ~~value~~.

7. (currently amended) The asynchronous tracking system of claim 4 ~~6~~, wherein said billing dialogue module further comprises means for forcing qualification data to be entered from the corresponding client computer before proceeding, when the number of records pertaining to a job submitted by the corresponding client computer exceeds ~~the~~ a maximum unbilled job number ~~value~~.

8. (currently amended) The asynchronous tracking system of claim 7, wherein the client computer includes a screen and where said billing dialogue module further comprises means for irremovably obscuring the screen of the client computer when the number of records pertaining to a job submitted by the corresponding client computer exceeds the maximum unbilled job value until qualification data is entered through the billing dialogue module.

9. (currently amended) An asynchronous computer network, comprising:
a communications medium;
at least one client computer connected to said communications medium;
at least one server connected to said communications medium;

at least one printer connected to said communications medium for performing a print job at a first time;

a message queue module communicated with said communications medium, wherein said message queue module stores at least one record, and wherein said record comprises data pertaining to the print job submitted by said client computer; ~~and~~

a workstation monitor module resident on said client computer, wherein said workstation monitor module communicates a message to said client computer at a later second time which is temporally independent of <u>or not synchronous with </u>the first time when the print job is performed, if said message queue module contains a record pertaining to the print job submitted by the client computer<u>; and</u>

<u>an unbilled alert module for automatically generating a message of unbilled cost data on the client computer, the unbilled alert module communicated with said communications medium</u>.

10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) The asynchronous computer network of claim <u>9</u> ~~10~~, where the client computer has a computer screen and wherein said unbilled alert module <u>generates the unbilled cost data message as </u>~~comprises one of ~~an icon <u>or </u>~~and~~ a <u>textual </u>message that appears on the computer screen associated with said client computer at the second time.

12. (currently amended) The asynchronous computer network of claim 9 ~~10~~, further comprising a printer monitor module resident on one of said client computer and said server, wherein said printer monitor module comprises means for monitoring said client computer for the submission of a print job through the client computer and to create a record pertaining to the print job submitted through the client computer.

13. (previously presented) The asynchronous computer network of claim 12, further comprising a billing dialogue module resident on said client computer, wherein said billing dialogue module comprises means for receiving qualification data from the client computer.

14. (previously presented) The asynchronous computer network of claim 13, where the client computer has a computer screen and wherein said billing dialogue module comprises a graphical user interface appearing on the computer screen associated with said client computer.

15. (currently amended) The asynchronous computer network of claim 13, further comprising a manager's module resident on one of said client computer and said server, wherein said manager's module comprises means for setting a maximum unbilled print job <u>number</u> ~~value~~.

16. (currently amended) The asynchronous computer network of claim 15, wherein said billing dialogue module further comprises means for forcing entry of qualification data through the corresponding client computer when the number of records pertaining to the a print job submitted by the corresponding client computer exceeds the maximum unbilled print job number value.

17. (currently amended) The asynchronous computer network of claim 16, wherein said billing dialogue module further comprises means for irremovably obscuring a screen associated with the client computer when the number of records pertaining to a print job submitted by the client computer exceeds the maximum unbilled print job number value until qualification data is entered through the billing dialogue module.

18. (currently amended) An asynchronous method of tracking jobs on a computer network, which jobs are performed in or by the computer network, comprising:

detecting performance of a job sent from a client computer at a first time;

writing a job record comprising data pertaining to the job to a message queue; and

automatically creating an unbilled message alert message of unbilled cost data on the client computer at a later second time if an unbilled job record is detected in the message queue for the user, the first time and later second time being temporally independent of or not synchronous with each other.

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19. (currently amended) The asynchronous method of claim 18, wherein said creating an unbilled message the alert message comprises displaying one of either an icon or and a textual message on a computer screen associated with the client computer at the second time.

20. (currently amended) The asynchronous method of claim 18, further comprising initiating a billing dialogue when the number of records in the message queue exceeds a predetermined an unbilled job number value.

21. (previously presented) The asynchronous method of claim 20, further comprising initiating a billing dialogue in response to a user request.

22. (previously presented) The asynchronous method of claim 20, wherein initiating a billing dialogue further comprises creating a graphical user interface on the client computer.

23. (previously presented) The asynchronous method of claim 20, further comprising clearing the record from the message queue when the user completes the billing dialogue associated with the record.

24. (currently amended) The asynchronous method of claim 23, further comprising setting a maximum unbilled job number value.

25. (previously presented) The asynchronous method of claim 20, wherein said step of initiating a billing dialogue further comprises forcing the user to enter qualification data when the number of records pertaining to a job submitted by the user exceeds the maximum unbilled job value.

26. (currently amended) The asynchronous method of claim 25, wherein forcing the user to enter qualification data when the number of records pertaining to a job submitted by the user exceeds the maximum unbilled job number ~~value~~ comprises irremovably obscuring the screen of the client computer when the number of records pertaining to a job submitted by the user exceeds the maximum unbilled job number ~~value~~ until qualification data is entered through the billing dialogue module.

27. (currently amended) An asynchronous tracking system for tracking job activity,~~-~~ comprising:

means for detecting a job activity;

means for billing job activity; and

a message queue module that functionally and temporally separates operation of said means for detecting job activity and said means for billing activity; and

<u>means for automatically generating a message alert of unbilled cost data</u>

<u>when cost recoupment data is required for a job activity which has been</u>

<u>performed but not billed</u>.

28. (previously presented) The asynchronous tracking system of claim 27, wherein said message queue module comprises means for receiving information extracted from the job activity.

29. (previously presented) The asynchronous tracking system of claim 28, further comprising means for notifying a user of the presence of extracted information in said message queue module related to the job activity associated with the user.

30. (previously presented) The asynchronous tracking system of claim 29, further comprising a billing dialogue module.

31. (previously presented) The asynchronous tracking system of claim 30, further comprising means for activating said billing dialogue module when said message queue module contains information extracted from a number of job activities which number exceeds a maximum unbilled job value.

32. (previously presented) The asynchronous tracking system of claim 31 including a client computer wherein said billing dialogue module prevents the

user from interactively using a client computer to access the tracking system until billing information is entered.

33. (previously presented) The asynchronous tracking system of claim 31, wherein said means for notifying a user of the presence of extracted information in said message queue related to the job activity associated with the user further comprises means for allowing the user to activate said billing dialogue module voluntarily.

34. (previously presented) The asynchronous tracking system of claim 31, further comprising means for clearing information extracted from the job activity resident in said message queue module when the user enters billing information pertaining to the job activity in said billing dialogue module.